

# MEDEVAC Soldiers return from Kosovo deployment

Approximately 25 Soldiers assigned to the Chesterfield-based Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment returned to the United States Nov. 3, 2018, after serving on federal active duty in Kosovo since January. The Soldiers provided aerial medical evacuation support and training to U.S. and allied forces supporting Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo as part of Multi-National Battle Group East.

In Kosovo, the Soldiers were part of Task Force Guardian led by 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment of the Massachusetts National Guard.

During their deployment, the Soldiers flew more than 575 hours, conducted 70 medical evacuation training missions and more than 170 additional training flights.

Based at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, the detachment provided on-call aerial medical evacuation support within the KFOR theater of operations and also provided aerial medical evacuation training at Camp Bondsteel and other authorized training areas around Kosovo, explained Capt. Mike Kone, the detachment commander.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/06/12224/>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers return to Virginia Nov. 6, 2018, after spending most of the year in Kosovo serving on federal active duty.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

**Adjutant General's 2018 Veterans Day Message**

Each year on November 11 we honor the brave men and women from all branches of the military for their service and sacrifice in defending the ideals of freedom across the globe. This year Veterans Day is even more special because it falls on the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/09/12238/>

**29th ID Soldiers gain valuable experience at Warfighter exercise**

Maryland and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division prepared for future missions at a "Warfighter" exercise Sept. 28 – Oct. 12, 2018, at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/05/12204/>

**Operation Waypoint serves as key component in reaching end-strength goal**

More than 100 Soldiers, representing Virginia Army National Guard units from across the Commonwealth, attended an Operation Waypoint event Nov. 3-4, 2018, at the Blackstone Readiness Center in Blackstone, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/05/12210/>

**Gallagher to succeed Griffin, will lead Va. Army National Guard strategic initiatives**

Col. K. Weedon Gallagher has been selected to succeed Brig. Gen. Paul Griffin as the Virginia National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General for Army Strategic Initiatives according to an announcement made Nov. 1, 2018.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/01/12221/>

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For information about the joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

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# Veterans recognized across the commonwealth

Virginia National Guard personnel took part in Veterans Day observations across the commonwealth Nov. 10-12, 2018, to honor all Americans who served and are currently serving in the armed forces as well as commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. Senior leaders took part in ceremonies with elected officials, and Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force took part in community events where they recognized veterans, sang the national anthem and shared their experiences with school students. Commonwealth ChalleNGe cadets paid tribute to veterans by marching in a parade in Virginia Beach, and the 29th Infantry Division Band performed at events in Roanoke and Bassett.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam thanked veterans and currently serving active duty and reserve component personnel during the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11 in Richmond. He also recognized the important role of family members and their support to uniformed personnel.

VNG Soldiers assigned to the 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provided a WWI color guard and presented the colors at the ceremony, and Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, represented the VNG along with Brig. Gen. Marshall L. Kjellvik, VNG Air Component Commander. Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins provided opening remarks and introduced guest speakers Northam and Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates M. Kirkland Cox, who also serves as the Chairman of the Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission.

"We owe a special debt of gratitude to each and every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Coast Guardsman for everything they have done to give us the freedoms we enjoy today, whether they are currently serving or wore the cloth of our country in years past," Williams wrote in his Veterans Day message. "And not only should we say 'thank you' to them, but also we must recognize the service and sacrifice of their families. Our military forces couldn't accomplish their mission with them. We also owe a special thanks to our employers whose support is so critical to the National Guard's success."

Brig. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, greeted veterans before Virginia's Veterans Parade Nov. 10 in Roanoke, helped dedicate a memorial wall to Vietnam veterans Nov. 11 in Bassett, and was the keynote speaker at the Veterans Day observation Nov. 12 at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford.

"This nation owes an immense debt, one infinitely larger than can ever be repaid, to veterans, whose service to the nation spans every decade, every year, and every day of our country's existence," Flora said. "Through untold courage and sacrifice, America's veterans have secured the liberty which the founding fathers sought to establish here in the new world."

Flora is the first Vietnamese boat person to be promoted to general officer in the U.S. Army, and he paid special tribute to



**Virginia National Guard Soldiers provide a World War I color guard and present the colors at the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11, 2018, in Richmond, Virginia.**

Vietnam veterans in his remarks both in Bassett and Bedford.

"Your devotion to duty and dedication to serve your fellow men despite the insurmountable odds you faced both in the battlefields and homefront, have inspired me and thousands of my fellow Vietnamese-Americans to follow your footsteps since our arrival in this great country," Flora said. "Your selfless service to defend my motherland, the Republic of Vietnam, to preserve the freedom and our way of life for nearly 20 years, is honorable and appreciated. We Vietnamese-Americans are forever indebted to you and your family."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/11/14/12244/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Rhodes selected as 29th Infantry Division deputy CG

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/10/26/12216/>

### Ferris selected as new 29th Infantry Division CSM

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/10/26/12157/>

### Photos: VDF conducts point of distribution exercises

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157697405822270>

### Photos: VNG HAZMAT experts display capabilities

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157703273425955>

### Photos: 529th CSSB welcomes new NCOs

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157703443188915>



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